

Iron County Register

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AGRICULTURAL.

ATTEND TO YOUR OWN STOCK.—Every stock-raiser, rich or poor, should personally look after the interests of his stock daily. There may be instances where a careful, kind and attentive hired hand may be had. But as a general rule this is not the case. Too frequently the care of stock is entrusted to howling, wild, vicious fellows, who beat and kick any animal which stands in their way, or which does not act exactly as they think is right. From our experience on this subject, we can scarcely write composedly on the matter. There is not a greater scarcity in any employment in life than kind, gentle and careful stock-feeders. And this is especially the case in the storms and bleak winds of winter, when stock need all the possible care and attention which can be bestowed on them. Hence we say that owners must attend to their own stock. The hired hands can do the straight work in the barn, fields or on the road. But when considerate care and kind attention is needed, there is the owner's place, instead of entrusting it to men who have no interest, and who only put in their time to get their wages. In many cases from this cause alone frequently the best results are not obtained by investment in various kinds of stock. Kindness to dumb brutes is a cheap article, yet it yields rich rewards. But even many owners upon whom the exercise of such a virtue is so important have frequently but a limited stock on hand. But they may be assured that the animal which looks kindly for your coming, and shows it feels a pleasure from your touch, will be more contented, and will assimilate its food more to your advantage. The kind breath of the owner is a balmy breeze to all domestic animals. —*Iowa State Register.*

MECHANICAL SKILL AND FARMING.—Comparatively few farmers have either mechanical knowledge or skill. They can not make the simplest implements they are required to use. They can not repair any of the machines they operate in their fields. Their houses and outbuildings are often in very bad condition because they are unable to use the tools used by a carpenter, and the employment of a skilled mechanic is attended with too much trouble and expense. Their wagons and carriages are rarely in a thorough state of repair. Something is ordinarily the matter with their harnesses. Their grindstone does not run true. Their pumps leak. The handles of their axes, spades, shovels and hoes are all in bad condition.

A large proportion of the expense of running a farm is caused by the erection and repairs of fences. A man without mechanical skill can not make a new fence or properly repair an old one. He will ruin the boards he attempts to cut and break the nails he undertakes to drive. He can not make a gate. He can not even hang one so that it will swing properly after it is made. As a consequence, there are barns instead of gates on his farm. As a further consequence, the fences afford poor protection to crops, while they disfigure the premises they ought, by right, to ornament. A farmer possessed of mechanical skill ordinarily has fences that are ornate in appearance as well as those that turn stock of all kinds. They are also furnished with gates that do not sag.

A farmer without mechanical skill can neither graft trees nor prune them. The trees in his orchard, the shrubbery in his lawns and the vines in his vineyard always present an unseemly appearance. He has no walks about his ground, because he does not know how to construct them. There is no scraper on his door-step. His hay-rack is always out of order, and the like is true of his field-roller, corn-marker and cultivator. He can use few of his machines to the best advantage, while all of them soon wear out under his management. The use of machines and all kinds of improved farm implements calls for mechanical skill. Without it their full value is never realized, while their speedy destruction is insured. Farm machinery is expensive, and every effort should be made to make it last as long as possible.

A very large proportion of farming operations are purely mechanical. Mechanical skill is necessary to construct a good stack of hay or grain, or to properly build a load of hay. A lack of mechanical skill causes shocks of corn to blow over. Mechanical skill is necessary to lay out land in plowing, and to so gauge the furrows that the land will come out even. The appearance of many cultivated fields show an absence of mechanical skill on the part of the persons who manage them. The sides are not even; at the end where the beam turns in plowing there is often a variation of a rod or more from a true line; the furrows are crooked in all parts of the field; the rows of corn or potatoes are not straight, and as a consequence many of the hills are injured by being worked with a cultivator.

A work-shop is a most valuable auxiliary to the farm and garden. Its tendency is to make one careful and precise in the use of tools of every descrip-

tion. It is a good school-room for boys. It helps develop mechanical ingenuity, which is as valuable to a farmer as to a machinist. The more boys handle shop-tools the more dexterous they will be with farming tools. With a good workshop profitable employment may be found during a large proportion of winter, and during rainy days at other seasons of the year. To keep a farm with its numerous buildings, fences and tools in repair requires mechanical skill, which farmers may acquire if they will set themselves and their sons about it. —*Chicago Times.*

Washington's Bible.

Old Christ Church, Alexandria, is in possession of the family Bible of General Washington. His name is written therein by himself: "George Washington, Mount Vernon, 1794." On the same leaf appears: "Presented to the Vestry of Christ Church, Fairfax Parish, by George Washington Parke Custis, April 6, 1804." And then follows, in Mr. Custis's handwriting: "The Family Bible of George Washington, used at Mount Vernon." Application was made to the vestry, on behalf of the Mount Vernon Association, to purchase this Bible, to be kept at Mount Vernon. The church being in debt, and this valuable and interesting relic not being very safe in the church building, the vestry were disposed to listen to the proposition. This led to some discussion in the *Alexandria Gazette*. "In their financial needs, caused by the repair of the building, which even now is suffering through lack of funds, the proposition to buy the Bible for the Mount Vernon Association was presented to the vestry by request. Necessity, and no desire to remove the ancient landmark, caused the favorable consideration of the proposition." The facts are, that during the past five years the small and by no means wealthy congregation of the church has expended in necessary improvements and repairs a sum amounting to nearly \$10,000, all of which has been paid except the present debt of about \$1,000. After such a heavy expenditure upon the congregation, and they are very anxious it should be discharged, and speedily. The church has been already taxed to the extent of their ability. The current revenues are barely sufficient for current expenses. Christ Church is considerably over a century old; it is the church in which Washington and his family worshipped—in which as a vestryman he occasionally read the service to the congregation, and in which his pew still remains of the same size and form as when occupied by him. It is unlike any other church in the State or country, and is, so to speak, the property of the whole country, and should be so looked upon, and should be sustained by all as the link more nearly binding the past and present than any other building in this country, and it should be kept in repair and good preservation. —*Washington Post.*

Killed by the Electric Light.

An incident of an extraordinary nature has occurred at the Halte Theatre, Aston, near Birmingham. The stage is lighted by two electric lights, and when the candles are not burning two brass connections, used for the purpose of crossing the current, are hung up over the orchestra. After the performance of the pantomime, Mr. Bruno, the euphonium player, was leaving with the other members of the band, when, presumably out of curiosity, he caught hold of the two brass connections referred to. The man in charge called out to him with the object of warning him of the danger he was incurring. The warning, however, came too late. Mr. Bruno received the full shock of the electric current generated by the powerful battery which supplies the whole of the lamps in the building and grounds. It is said that the candles not being then burning Mr. Bruno was unable to disengage himself, and pulled the wire down. The shock rendered him insensible. Medical men were soon in attendance and restoratives applied, but Mr. Bruno died in forty minutes afterward. —*London Times.*

A STUFFED STEAK OF BEEF.—Cut a thick slice of beef from the round, say about two pounds, have it free from bone; two gills of bread-crumbs well seasoned with salt, pepper, and half a chopped onion; spread out your beef, and spread the seasoned bread-crumbs all over it, roll it up close, and tie it carefully at the ends, from one end to the other, and round the middle, to keep it in shape. Fry and brown a slice of salt pork, and take it from the spider, then lay in your roll of beef, and brown it on all sides. Then stew it slowly in a little water, keeping it closely covered, and having in the water a little salt and two spoonfuls of vinegar. Let it stew two hours or more, then take off the strings. It cuts nicely through the roll, and is good cold. The water makes a good gravy and it keeps well.

CHARLES JONES, a third owner of a Leadville mine worth \$1,000,000, died without making a will. A lawyer, taking advantage of a small mortgage, got fraudulent possession of the property; but some miners discovered the scheme, and found heirs in a poverty-stricken Vermont family.

The jest that gives pain is no jest.

HERE AND THERE.

ILLINOIS farm products amounted to \$200,000,000 last year, which is double the product of all the gold and silver mines in the United States.

A RAILROAD doing an ordinary business requires for its current operations supplies to the extent of \$1,000 per mile per year, exclusive of rails, locomotives and cars.

SOCIETY belles in Washington now affect the banjo, which they are learning to play. There are many costly ones with ebony handles and silver mountings.

A PLEASANT evening game in Detroit is for each player to oil his hands and then try to turn a door-knob. The one who succeeds first gets a hunk of taffy on a string.

RANDOLPH, N. Y., has been the scene of a romance which, in point of faithfulness on the part of the woman, is equal to that of Longfellow's *Evangeline*. Miss Betsey Knight, who died a few days ago at the age of eighty-five was in her girlhood betrothed to a young man in Ohio, and shortly before the day of the nuptials he died. Miss Knight refused to believe it, and remained faithful to him all these years in the hope that he would return and claim her.

THE SCRANTON (Pa.) *Republican* asserts that the following story is true: "Mr. John Merchant came to this country from England some ten years ago, and settled in this city. His sister preceded him some nine years, and until last Saturday they did not know of each other's whereabouts, and yet they have both been living in Hyde Park during this time, and have attended the same church. They spent last Sabbath together at his residence, and were as happy a couple undoubtedly as could be found within the city."

REV. WILLIAM M. BARRY, an eccentric clergyman of Worcester, Mass., left a will which is characteristically odd. What is left of his estate is to be applied to the support of service in his former church. He left directions for all his papers to be burned, that no notice of his death was to be published in the papers, that his coffin should be a mere plain box, that he should be buried in his poorest clothes, an express wagon to be used in the place of a hearse, that his grave was to be dug anywhere and entirely unmarked, and that the only service at his funeral consist of the reading of two psalms.

It often happens that two women claim the same man for a husband, but it is rare that one woman claims two men, neither of whom wants her. But such is the condition of a divorcee suit in New York, originally begun by the second husband, with the connivance of the first, to show that the second marriage was undertaken before the divorce from the first husband was granted. A decree in favor would have left her married to her first husband. He changed his mind and resisted the decree, but the Court had decreed that the divorce was invalid, which leaves the second husband free, but binds the first.

THE SAN FRANCISCO *Call*, referring to William A. Beck and the late Miss Nellie Crocker of Sacramento, says: "The lady, who is well known in this city, being related to one of the railroad magnates, her father having been also one of the originators of the Central Pacific, was engaged to be married to the son of an ex-Secretary of State, now in this city. A few days before she died, in New York, the young lady made her will, disposing of \$600,000, which was in her own right. Remembering her comparatively poor friend in this State, she inserted a clause in the will giving the young man \$100,000 in gold coin as a parting gift."

OLIVE LOGAN writes that every day during her stay in Madrid she saw the King and his new wife, together or alone. They drive in Royal state; indeed, with outriders and escort of cavalry, and open carriages drawn by four horses. Alfonso is a dark-eyed, dark-skinned Spanish boy of 28, generally dressed in a light-gray overcoat, primrose-colored gloves, and tall black hat. Marie Christine is far from being a beauty. Thin to the verge of scrawiness, with high cheek-bones and a great hook nose, she is as plain a young girl as one would see in a day's walk. Olive Logan feels convinced that this second marriage, so hastily contracted, is not liked in Spain.

THE certificate of Drs. Craik and Dick, the physicians who attended George Washington at the time of his death, has just been unearthed from a Georgetown newspaper of 1799. It does not appear in any of the biographies of Washington. The certificate concludes thus: "He was fully impressed at the beginning of his complaint, as well as through every succeeding stage of it, that its conclusion would be mortal; submitting to the several exertions made for his recovery rather as a duty than from any expectations of their efficacy. He considered the operations of death upon his system as coeval with the disease; and several hours before his decease, after repeated efforts to be understood, succeeded in expressing a desire that he might be permitted to die without interruption. During the short period of his illness he economized his time in the arrangement of such few concerns as required his attention with the utmost serenity, and anticipated his approaching dissolution with every demonstration of that equanimity for which his whole life has been so uniformly and singularly conspicuous."

THE LIFE OF A CONGRESSMAN.

Not So Easy as Many Imagine—The Multifarious Requirements of Their Position—The Pecuniary and Other Demands Made Upon Them.

It is a common thing to hear men envy the "easy life" of a Congressman. To persons who never or rarely visit Washington and are, therefore, unacquainted with the duties of a Congressman and the labors that are imposed upon him, the belief is universal that a member dwells upon "flowery beds of ease," and that he has nothing to do but make a speech occasionally and draw \$5,000 per year.

A more erroneous idea never prevailed. A member of Congress who attends properly to the needs of his district and the calls of his constituents has but little time for pleasure or recreation. He is one of the hardest-worked men in this country. Years ago, when the population was smaller, when mail facilities were of the stage-coach order, and when but few citizens had any business with the public departments at Washington, Congressmen had not a great deal to do. Their constituents seldom came to the Capital, because the trip was tedious and expensive. Letters were few and far between, and there were but few pensions and claims to look after. Then the M. C.'s gave themselves up very largely to pleasure. In those days cards, horse-racing and cock-fighting were popular amusements with the National legislators. Ever since the war the demands of constituents upon their members have been growing until now a Congressman is expected to attend promptly to all business that every man in his district may have in Washington. If he neglects these calls upon him he jeopardizes his hold upon his seat.

The man who has a claim against the Government for services during the war, for property taken, or for any thing else, rarely ever thinks of putting it in the hands of any of the numerous law firms or claim agents in this city. He incloses the papers relating to the matter to the member from his district or one of the Senators from his State, and urges that his business be hurried through. Should the Congressmen fail to establish the claim and get the money, he frequently, because of his failure, makes an enemy of the claimant, who forthwith declares and works for some other aspirant for Congressional honors. The last time General Rice, late Democratic candidate for Lieutenant-Governor of Ohio, was in Washington he said: "A Congressman who tries to meet all the demands upon him has the work of three men to perform. In the first place there's his duty upon the floor. If he keeps trace of all the bills and public measures, and labors for the success of his own, he has as much as any one man ought to do. Then there's his Committee work. Not only the work of the Committees to which he may belong, but there are matters referred to nearly all the Committees which he ought to look after. Then there's his Department work. There is not a Department of the Government, aye, scarcely a division of any Department, in which some of his constituents haven't something of interest to them. Applications for appointments to positions, claims, pensions, and the many stages through which all these matters have to go." General Rice did not say this complainingly, for no member ever attended more faithfully to his duties than he. He was simply showing that a Congressman's life is not one of ease.

Besides the demands of the nature described there are a thousand and one pecuniary calls upon members. They are called upon by mail to contribute to all charitable movements in their respective districts, and Senators must meet such requests from the entire State. Then if a constituent, even though he may have been "out on a lark," finds himself in Washington without money, he expects the Congressman who represents him to replenish his purse and "no questions asked." In many cases men who have indulged in pleasure in New York, Boston and other Eastern cities until their funds were exhausted have frequently telegraphed or come in person to their member or Senators for money to "take them home." Of course many of these appeals can be refused, but very many of them can not. Mr. Barnum, of Connecticut, while in the United States Senate, said he would be glad to make over his entire salary to any responsible person who would agree to meet the calls for charity and for assistance upon him from his constituents. Mr. Barnum added that he simply referred to the demands that he felt forced to respond to; that calls of this character more than consumed his salary every year. There is now in the Senate a gentleman who gives every dollar of his salary to his wife and daughter to be used in responding to the calls upon him for help, and in addition to this he gives, every year, a great deal out of his income from other sources than Congress. He got the idea of turning over his salary to the ladies of his family from the remark of Senator Barnum quoted above. Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, since his return to Congress, has given away thousands of dollars beyond his salary. Senator Conkling, it is said, in a very quiet and unostentatious manner, annually dispenses more than his salary in aiding others. There are very many others who do the same, and therefore find themselves at the end of the year

without a dollar to reward them for the arduous duties they have performed.

Besides the money that is voluntarily given away Congressmen are frequently made victims by pretended constituents. Not long ago a very good-looking man called upon a member from a distant State and wanted to borrow two hundred and fifty dollars. The applicant for the loan represented himself as a brother of a leading merchant in one of the principal towns of the member's district. "Then," said the Congressman, "your brother will certainly have no objection to becoming security for you. I'm willing to advance any amount upon his security." "But I'm so far away," pleaded the stranger. "You can telegraph to him," answered the member. "Bring me a line from him by telegraph, saying it's all right, and you can get the money." "O, certainly, I can do that," said the stranger, and he immediately departed. In a few hours he returned to the Capital, calling out the member, and showed him a telegram purporting to have come from the brother, who had been mentioned, and pledging himself to be responsible for the loan. The member led his pretended constituent to the Sergeant-at-Arms' office, and there gave him the two hundred and fifty dollars, for which due thanks for the favor were returned, with the promise that the money should be refunded. The member thought nothing of the affair until, some days afterward, he was writing to the merchant. In his letter he mentioned the loan to "your brother," and directed the merchant to put the amount in a certain bank, to the writer's credit, whenever it was "convenient." Imagine the surprise of the M. C. when he received a telegram, followed in due time by letter from the merchant, saying he had no brother, and had not sent any telegram about the \$250. The member related the affair recently, saying he could not explain how the swindler had so cleverly prepared the forged telegram; that he must have got hold of a telegraphic blank; "but," added the duped Congressman, "I must confess I did not examine the telegram very closely. I simply read the words it contained, and, for aught I know now to the contrary, it may have been written upon one of the sending instead of the receiving blanks of the Telegraph Company." This was told in a group of Congressmen, and brought out several similar accounts of tricks that had recently been resorted to—always by pretending constituents—to dupe members out of money. One member had been caught for \$100 by a forged check, another by a letter purporting to come from a friend in the city, who wanted \$25 "immediately," and so on. The correspondence of a member of Congress, too, entails a great deal of labor. Letters from constituents must be answered promptly, and in order to do this there is scarcely a member who is not compelled to employ a secretary or amanuensis. Upon an average, it takes three hours each day at least for a member to read and reply to the letters he receives. The impression that Congressmen have nothing to do but enjoy themselves is altogether wrong. They have their troubles and annoyances as well as other people, and, upon the whole, do not deserve half the censure they get. —*Washington Star.*

A Learned Cat and a Wise Hen.

Mrs. Augustus W. Brooks, of East Eliot, Me., has (or did have, about a year ago) a cat 13 years old, which she brought from Boston and for which she has been vainly offered \$50. This learned pussy will stand up at the word of command, bow slowly or quickly as directed, walk around the room on her hind legs only, dance, turn summersaults, go through the motions of holding a jews' harp to her mouth with one paw and playing on it with the other, mew when ordered to speak, kiss her paw to visitors, hold a saucer of milk on her fore legs and lap the milk, and stand on her hind feet and with her fore paws catch bits of bread or meat thrown to her, like a base-ball player. Her kitten, a year old, will turn summersaults. The same lady has a hen which always wipes her feet on the mat on entering the house, and if asked "How do you get your living, biddy?" will scratch on the floor, look to see if she has scratched out any thing, and then look at the questioner to see if the answer is correct; this hen despises the wooden, chalk, and porcelain cheats, which some people palm off on hens for nest-eggs, tumbling them out of her nest as often as they are put in. A rooster will also scratch the floor when asked how he gets his living, but can not be made to wipe his feet. —*Portsmouth (N. H.) Chronicle.*

FREDERICK HETLER, a farmer of Marion, O., was approached the other day by a well dressed man who wanted to buy a team of fine horses. As the stranger's credentials were good, Hetler sold the horses, taking in pay a United States bond for \$500 and giving the stranger his note for \$300. The purchaser of the horses drove away with the team, stopped at the next bank, disposed of the note, and disappeared. A few hours after the sharper's departure Hetler found that the bond was bogus, a counterfeit, and utterly worthless.

A PHILOSOPHER says: You require in marriage precisely the same quality that you would in eating sausages—absolute confidence.

WIT AND WISDOM.

A STUCK-UP thing—A show-bill.

THE God of Lawyers—More-fee-us. Motto for beehives—"God bless our hum."

A COLD wave—The adieu of the ice-man.

BUSINESS with the Italian brigands is so poor that many of them have had to go to work.

THE Boston *Transcript* thinks that Indians are not so red as they are painted.

TWO souls with but a single thought—A married couple. Each wants to boss the other.

A MAN stabbed another with a scissor yesterday in Brooklyn. It is always dangerous to interrupt a person who is writing editorials. —*Buffalo Courier.*

THIS being leap-year, any wife is privileged to go down town after 10 o'clock and hunt up her husband and read him a lecture on larks and other birds. —*Detroit Free Press.*

SHE may dress in silk, or dress in satin, May know the languages, Greek and Latin, May know fine art, may love and sigh—But she ain't no good if she can't make pie. —*Steubenville Herald.*

A CHICAGO man went to a dentist to have a lost tooth replaced. The dentist grafted a woman's tooth in his gum. Since then his jaw has been working like a saw-mill.

A NEW book is entitled "A Manual of Etiquette and Dress of the Best American Society." Any one at all curious to know how editors dress and behave should have a copy of this work. —*Norristown Herald.*

THE Burlington *Hawkeye* says: "Did you ever notice, brethren, the bigger the woman the smaller the hat? It's only your delicate little fairy, whose lightly falling tread scarce bends the daisy that it falls upon, that wears a hat as broad as a coal-barge."

A JUSTICE at Albion, Ohio, performed a marriage ceremony, and was asked how much he charged for the service. "The law of this State allows me two dollars," he replied. "Well, here's 50 cents," said the bridegroom, "and that, with what the State allows, will make two dollars and a half."

A Good Wife's Mistaken Devotion.

Mrs. Davis was, as usual, sitting in her bed-room and waiting for her wretched husband. It was nearly 11 o'clock. The night was cold, and the candle was almost burned out. In the corner stood the base-ball club ready to be used in case of necessity, and on the mantel-piece the eight-day clock drowsily ticked away the waning hours. Tired Mrs. Davis herself grew drowsy, and when a loud ring at the front door bell aroused her, she found that she had fallen asleep and that the candle was out. Without waiting to light another candle, the faithful wife felt her way down stairs, opened the door, and admitted the drunkard. He was even more drunk than usual, for he could not articulate a single word. Mrs. Davis had immense difficulty in assisting him up stairs for he insisted upon sitting down on every separate step and falling asleep. There were twenty-two steps in all, and it took three-quarters of an hour to get him up to the top of the stairs, down which he promptly fell again. Nothing, however, can exhaust the patience of a good woman, and about 12:30 Mrs. Davis succeeded in bringing her charge into the bedroom and placing him on the sofa, where he instantly and permanently went to sleep. In the circumstances, she resolved to let him lie there, and thus avoid the trouble of lighting a candle. So she loosed his collar, drew off his boots placed a stick of wood under his head, and inserted a piece of soap in his mouth as a hint to him to stop snoring. Having thus made his comfortable for the night, she was about to prepare herself for bed, when the front door was opened with a latch-key, and a man sprang hastily up stairs and rushed into the room. Mrs. Davis, being a woman of much presence of mind, screamed "fire!" and hastily lit the candle, so that she could see how to begin operations with the club on the supposed burglar. To her unspeakable horror the new-comer was her husband, in a state of complete sobriety. He had not been so hopelessly and aggressively sober in ten years, and as he looked at the drunkard on the sofa, recognized him as a certain dissolute neighbor, and then in sepulchral tones said: "Mary! is this my reward for signing the pledge?" Mrs. Davis felt that her cup was full. In the darkness of the night, and trusting implicitly to the habitual drunkenness of her husband, she had innocently taken the wrong drunkard to her room, and now her cruel husband had betrayed her confidence by actually venturing to come home sober at the most inopportune moment possible. The probability is that the poor woman will be sent home in disgrace to her mother. Mr. Davis assumes to regard himself in the light of a betrayed and wronged husband, and refuses to accept Mrs. Davis's explanation. She now feels that the crowning cruelty of his life was his unexpected sobriety. That after all the years of his constant drunkenness he should suddenly, and without any warning, come home sober, was indeed a refinement of cruelty of which only the most hardened of men could be guilty. —*New York Times.*